

IASSIST

QUARTERLY

Volume 8 Number 1

Winter 1984

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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

The IASSIST QUARTERLY represents an international cooperative effort on the part of individuals managing, operating, or using machine readable data archives, data libraries, and data services. The QUARTERLY reports on activities related to the production, acquisition, preservation, processing, distribution, and use of machine readable data carried out by its members and others in the international social science community. Your contributions and suggestions for topics of interest are welcomed. The views set forth by authors of articles contained in this publication are not necessarily those of IASSIST.

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The QUARTERLY is published four times yearly. Articles and other information should be typewritten and double-spaced. Each page of the manuscript should be numbered. The first page should contain the article title, author's name, affiliation, address to which correspondence may be sent, and telephone number. Footnotes and bibliographic citations should be consistent in style, preferably following a standard authority such as the University of Chicago Press Manual of Style or Kate L. Turabian's Manual for Writers. If the contribution is an announcement of a conference, training session, or the like, the text should include a mailing address and a telephone number for the director of the event or for the organization sponsoring the event. Book notices and reviews should not exceed two double-spaced pages. Deadlines for submitting articles are six weeks before publication. Manuscripts should be sent in duplicate to the Editor:

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EDITOR'S LOG

In 1984, IASSIST begins its tenth year as an organization. While preparing this issue, I looked through the earlier publications. In one sense, we are still dealing with the same ideas: how to establish data archives; how to manage, store, classify and retrieve information; how to create better techniques for linking archives together electronically; how to coordinate our efforts. It seems likely that we will continue to have these concerns. Jackie McGee's paper on the indexing of machine-readable data files, originally presented at the IASSIST Conference in 1983, addresses still unresolved questions on how to organize and locate information.

There is one area in which I perceive a shift. There is less talk nowadays of the "invisible college." The image of the archive as a repository of valuable information has gained a footing. An archivist in an academic institution is perceived as a resource whose advice and assistance will form an integral part of a research project, thesis or dissertation, or even the planning of courses. Researchers rely more on the formal organization of archives and less on private contacts. Murray Aborn's paper, also originally presented at the 1983 conference, proposes a further shift away from those hoarded collections of dusty tapes, and presents possibilities for new ways to manage them.

I think the next ten years will be productive for this organization if we do as Dr. Aborn suggests, and turn to other disciplines which may benefit our work with continuing concerns of data archive management as well as expand the ways we meet future challenges to support social science research.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Stephenson, Editor



APPLICATIONS OF INFORMATION SCIENCE TO SOCIAL MEASUREMENT

by

Murray Aborn

National Science Foundation

This paper was presented at the IASSIST ANNUAL CONFERENCE, May 19-22, 1983, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In the 1960's, the growing influence of the computer caused dramatic changes to take place in the concept of scientific data and the character of data analysis. Among these changes was the onset of a shift away from single-purpose data collections and analyses based on relatively small data sets, toward large-scale data collections and analyses based on data banks serving multiple applications and possessing widely accessible storage and retrieval systems. In social science this led to the establishment of data archives and an early attempt to regulate their functions. Additional purposes were to keep these facilities abreast of a rapidly advancing technology, and enable them to remain *au courant* with increasingly sophisticated management schemes for operating over larger and larger bodies of data (1). This paper briefly traces the role of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in these developments, discusses the current state of affairs with respect to social science data resources, and questions whether continued reliance on sheer data amassment is the true path to the further intellectual progress of the field.

THE BUILDING OF NSF DATA PROGRAMS

In the years immediately following the advent of the computer-based data

archive, NSF involvement in the expansion and upgrading of the major sources of social data grew and intensified. To increase the research-return from the enormous investment society makes in the collection of social statistics, projects were supported to enhance the researcher access to them. To fill the gaps in the social science data base, projects were supported to maintain data series not covered by the federal statistical system but needed for the monitoring of social and economic trends and the modeling of long-term social change. Direct support was afforded to archival facilities to help them expand their holdings and degray the costs of dissemination. On the user side, projects were supported to increase the research utilization of stored social data across disciplines, including projects to introduce bibliographic-type control over machine-readable data files in order to reduce duplicate data collection and help prevent incomplete data analyses. And alongside these data programs, projects were funded to improve existing methods and create new tools of broad utility in analyzing the growing stock of social and economic data becoming available to the research community.

In 1976, a committee of the National Academy of Sciences surveying the social sciences at NSF acknowledged

the role NSF programs were playing in the sphere of data resources. It declared:

It is generally felt, and reflected in the long-range plans of several of the social science programs in NSF, that deficiencies in the available base of social science data are seriously impeding the progress of research (2).

The Committee did not refute this outlook; in fact, it ultimately recommended that such planning continue and include greater support for longitudinal studies over extended time periods and national facilities for survey research and large data bases.

Financial backing for the data programs described above was provided not only by NSF's Division of Social and Economic Science, but by sections in other parts of the Foundation, such as Computer Science and Information Science. Over the next six years, however, Computer Science and Information Science turned inward, concentrating on their own disciplinary development and gradually eschewing applicational extensions to other fields of science. But in social science, the work went on. Programs were maintained that to this day continue to build a data resource infrastructure capable of sustaining the large empirical research tradition which characterizes contemporary social research.

IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE IN ORIENTATION?

The National Academy of Sciences committee surveying NSF's social science programs in 1976 never made crystal clear precisely what was being referred to by "deficiencies in the available base of social science data," and which of these were more or less responsible for "impeding the progress of research." It is pretty apparent from the committee's report, however, that data resource planning in social science was largely oriented toward

filling topical gaps and producing lower levels of aggregation, larger-scale, longer-term data gathering efforts, and a more systematic approach. Though the importance of methodological accompaniments to assure good data quality was neglected neither in NSF's programs nor the committee's report, the effect of stressing data gaps and data shortfalls inevitably leads to more and more data getting collected and more and more data being retained--and that is exactly what has happened.

Now, one question that arises at this point is whether an orientation toward data amassment has had negative as well as positive consequences. The answer is "yes." If negative consequences is too strong a term, then we can at least speak of limiting effects. And if there have been negative consequences or limiting effects, then it is time for a change in orientation. But before proceeding to describe what the required change appears to be, it is crucial to make clear that such change in no way gainsays the compelling arguments put forth in many recent publications regarding the value of secondary analysis. Nor does it gainsay the need to have data available for reanalysis in order to test for bias in reported results, challenge data-driven theoretical assertions, and generally carry on the processes of scientific understanding in a field which is rarely able to conduct controlled experiments or reproduce the original conditions of an investigation. A change in orientation simply argues for diverting some amount of effort and devoting some portion of available resources to study the deeper aspects of the enterprise in which the field has become heavily engaged.

One negative consequence of the data gathering enterprise has been the pejoration of the term "data." This is no doubt connected with the fact that the enterprise is largely concerned with quantitative data in computer-manipulable form, but in any case the

term data is now commonly used interchangeably with the terms observations, information and, worst of all, evidence. I daresay few really believe that data in and of themselves prove anything, but that's the way we have come to talk and, I fear, occasionally think. However, the more frequent tendency is to confuse data first with observations and then with information. I realize this gets pretty elementary, but contemporary social science data archives contain mostly recorded observations, not data. It sounds more imposing to speak of *data* archives, and it is certainly easier to raise money in the name of data than it is for just plain old observations, but the terminology is inaccurate. Observations become data only after they are placed in some analytical framework. As it is obvious from the general-purpose nature of the data archives, the same observations are destined to be interpreted as more than one kind of data.

A similar confusion prevails with respect to data and information. The two are not synonymous, though the exposition here is very difficult inasmuch as the relation is inferential and dependent upon the application of external structures. Simply state, it behooves us not to forget that any body of data is a mixture of information and noise, and that the proportions will vary according to the use to which the data are being put.

In the main, the signal to noise ratio in social science is typically much lower than in the physical sciences, which is a way of saying that the information content of a data base can be very meager, particularly when the data are employed to test hypotheses far afield from the hypotheses which motivated the data collection originally. It is thus ironic that the very success of large-scale, integrated data bases and the attendant data-processing technology often leads to a confusion of the technology with the natural semantics of information,

which is heavily context-dependent. Thus the underlying assumptions appropriate to the context of one application may be totally inappropriate to the contexts of other applications. Moreover, the difficulty is compounded by the fact that in their research, social scientists are heavily dependent upon data files which were not generated for scientific purposes, such as census data, voting records, police and court records, governmental budgets, and so forth, and whose informational value relative to the kinds of scientific questions social scientists ask may be completely uncertain.

BRINGING INFORMATION SCIENCE INTO THE PICTURE

In the previous section of this paper, mention was made of the ancillary role played by the computer and information sciences in the building of NSF data programs. It was noted that those roles diminished after 1976, and that NSF's contributions to the data resource infrastructure of present-day social science has been carried on exclusively by the social science elements of NSF. This situation is changing. Given recent advances in information science, it seems particularly important to begin to apply newly-formulated principles of knowledge management to social science data resources precisely *because* their holdings--observations of social and behavioral phenomena in digital form--tend to be incomplete, imprecise, and error-prone due to the fuzzy nature of the phenomena being observed and the looseness of the data gathering process. Knowledge management facilitates the translation of user needs into expressions upon which a data base system can act. One example of possible applications to social data is the development of data base specification languages, that is, languages which would permit social science researchers to express their

requirements in functional terms. These might then be translated into a database format, perhaps based on relational structures rather than representational ones, as is the present mode, which would help skirt the data dependence problem.

Other areas of potential application to social science data may come from information science's concern with descriptive classification, indexing, and the problems of relating variant terminology in a single retrieval system. The current work of Dolby is an example (3). Dolby argues that the correctness of data and data analysis involves correctness in meaning, and that correctness in meaning goes beyond matters of computer program correctness or the numerical accuracy of data. His approach concentrates on the use of classification structures to extend the formal treatment of meaning in computer-based data systems, and he has shown how such extensions can expose or reduce ambiguities and inconsistencies of meaning in such systems.

There are some other, more practical reasons to believe that the time has come to test out achievements in information science as they may be applied to stored social data. Urgencies created by current reductions in the quantity of social science-usable data generated by the federal statistical system is one reason; cutbacks

in the funds available to support scientifically oriented social science data resources is another. It would help greatly if we could improve our ability to estimate the degree of redundancy (i.e., the amount of information overlap) among data collections, and if we could make progress in our ability to set data collection and maintenance priorities.

Considering the potential benefits of bringing information science into closer contact with social science data problems and opportunities, it has been decided to launch an initiative--still informal at this juncture--to make known our receptivity to proposals which combine or merge the subject matters normally covered by social science and information science independently. Such proposals will be handled jointly by NSF's Division of Social and Economic Science and its Division of Information Science and Technology (4). The Division of Social and Economic Science supports the establishment, evaluation, and improvement of social science data resources, research on social data, and the development of methods for analyzing such data. The Division of Information Science and Technology supports research to increase understanding of the properties of information transfer. We believe the future will show that this initiative was well advised.

Notes and References

- (1) See, for example, Glaser, William A. Note on the work of the Council of Social Science Data Archives. *Social Science Information*, 1970 8(2):159-176. It may be of some historical interest to point out that the Council of Social Science Data Archives was the forerunner of IASSIST.
- (2) *Social and Behavioral Science Programs in the National Science Foundation. Final Report of the Committee on the Social Sciences in the National Science Foundation*, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1976.
- (3) Dolby, James L. Meaning from data: Implications for data analysis and database management systems. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Detroit, Michigan, 1983.
- (4) Inquiries may be addressed to: Program Director for Measurement Methods and Data Resources, Div. of Social and Economic Science, NSF, Washington, D.C.

INDEXING MACHINE-READABLE DATA FILES

FOR A

SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ARCHIVES

by

Jacqueline McGee

Rand Corporation

"It is still true that the best retrieval system is the expert human mind."¹

This paper was presented at the IASSIST Annual Conference, May 19-22, 1983, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

INTRODUCTION

In the recent past much has been written and discussed about the problems of cataloging and bibliographic control of social science data. Many of these problems may have been resolved with the implementation of the Angle-American Cataloging Rules II, Chapter 9 (AACRII) and the MARC format for bibliographic control (2). However, there are a number of reasons these solutions may not yet be universally implemented.

For instance, the AACRII and the MARC format may be very familiar to library staff, but all archives are not staffed by librarians. Many archives are suffering from a shortage of staff and financial resources. Federal agencies produce a major portion of the data archived and used for secondary analysis and these agencies are also financially depressed. Researchers and programmers who use these Machine-Readable Data Files (MRDF) are not as aware of the problems related to the acquisition or storage of data and their interests do not necessarily correspond to the interests of the data archivist.

Technological changes occur so frequently procedures may become obsolete by the time implementation occurs. And finally, so many new commercial firms are installing social science numeric data bases online and the interests of these firms do not lie in the same directions as those of the data archivist. To assist the novice who may be overwhelmed by some of these problems, it is the hope of the author this paper will provide some examples of simple record keeping.

Rowe and Byrum previously described a user-oriented system for the documentation and control of MRDF (3). This system was comprised of four parts. First, a standard catalog entry, second, a data abstract or description form, third, documentation codebooks and lastly, the records of physical and logical characteristics of the data set. It is not the purpose of this paper to offer an alternative system for the documentation and control of MRDF but to provide a practical example of implementing such a system. This example will provide an illustration for the person who has just received

responsibility for the safekeeping of a collection of MRDF or to establish an archive and isn't sure where to begin. The first item in the system by Rowe and Byrum, the standard catalog entry, was described before the Anglo-American Catalog Rules II, Chapter 9 were implemented. Data librarians located in a traditional library are already familiar with the rules for cataloging, but may not be familiar with the AACRII, Chapter 9.

The Anglo-American Cataloging Rules II, Chapter 9 describes the standard rules for cataloging MRDF. It is not within the scope of this paper to argue the pros and cons of the acceptability of the AACRII. There can be no doubt that a uniform standard defining MRDF is necessary in order to alleviate present confusing practices and the proliferation of titles for one data file. Certainly implementation of the AACRII and the agreement of the MARC format were giant strides in the cataloging and bibliographic control of MRDF.

STANDARD CATALOG ENTRY

Rowe and Byrum state "Standard catalog entries, constitute the primary records by which computer-readable data files should be controlled and accessed." It is with this one area of their discussion that I disagree slightly. The standard catalog entry requires extensive staff time and financial resources and need only be considered as necessary under certain conditions; if the required resources are available and may be allocated to such an endeavor; if the data archive or data bank is situated in a library or a library is available and willing to participate; if the data holdings are original data from the institution responsible for the establishment of the archive.

It is hoped non-originating archived data will be catalogued by the originating institution. However, the federal government is responsible

for a major portion of the data files held in many archives and current fiscal restraints on most federal agencies probably will not permit such a project in the near future. There is, however, an ongoing cataloging project at Michigan's Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSB) which may resolve the problem of cataloging federal data (4). ICPSR is certainly one of the largest, if not the largest, of the data archives in the United States. When this project to catalog their holdings is complete, it may be possible to consider a union catalog.

DATA ABSTRACT OR DATA DESCRIPTION FORM

It is the Data Abstract or Data Description Form described by Rowe and Byrum which should be given priority in the development of an archive record system. The data abstract or data description form in a standard format is an absolute necessity and should be the core of the documentation for the archiving of MRDF.

Aldrich has proposed a similar Abstract Form for the documentation of federal MRDF (5). It was from a description by Aldrich the following example was derived. Changes made in the form were for the benefit of the user and do not reflect a disagreement with her proposed standards. Since this form includes an abstract summarizing the data set or file being archived, this document shall be referred to here as a Data Base Profile. With some slight variations, the items contained in the form generally should contain the items shown on the next page.

If it is not possible or feasible for the archive or library to catalog the holdings of the archive according to AACRII at least the information supplied in the Abstract or Data Base Profile form will conform to the standards for describing MRDF. If at some future time cataloging is possible, the information for the catalog

Abstract Form for the Documentation of Federal MRDF

FILE #: an identifying number for the individual archive

FILE NAME: a title

FILE SOURCE: producer, distributor, processor

PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR: primary researcher

TYPE OF FILE: survey data, microdata, administrative records, process records, geographic records, software

UNIVERSE: total universe the records describe

SAMPLE SIZE: number of observations or records

SAMPLE UNIT: household, person or unit being measured

RESTRICTIONS: none, or any restrictions placed on the distribution

ABSTRACT: a summary description of the data set or file. Each abstract held in the archive should contain the same information. Care should be taken not to omit any portion of the required information and the information should appear as closely as possible in the same paragraph. This assures an easier search for the individual looking for specific information as to size of the sample, purpose of the study, key variables, etc.

REFERENCES: a descriptive listing of the hard-copy documentation available for use with the data file, i.e., code-books, survey instruments, dictionaries, etc.

RELATED PRINTED REPORTS: known reports where the data is described or where the data file has been used

TAPE SPECIFICATIONS: the physical characteristics of the data file, the tape numbers, the logical record length, the block-size, data set names and density

entry will be readily available.

Copies of the Data Base Profile may be stored in computer format as well as in hard-copy. If the data is stored in computer format it would be possible to devise a simple online search capability. If the data librarian wishes to be bibliographically correct, study the AACRII and include in the Profile the pertinent information from the AACRII as well as the information required or deemed necessary for the institution housing the data library (7). Many of the elements of the Data Base Profile may be utilized to produce a catalog. For instance, each abstract when extracted from the Profile provides summaries of the archive holdings. The Rand Data Facility catalog uses the abstracts in such a way.

Each abstract then written, therefore, should include the following (6):

- Data base identification number
- Source
- Name
- Date the information was collected
- Subject
- Geographic level of the data (lowest)
- Population or sampling unit
- Number of observations or number of logical records
- Key variables

Indicies may then be derived from the information given on a Data Base Profile.

SOURCE AND NAME INDEX

The Source and Name Index is derived from the File Name and the File Source as given in the Data Base Profile. Often these items are sorted as separate indices; an author index and a title index.

An index should lead a user to the information he is seeking with as

little effort as possible, and so we have combined these indices.

On the Data Base Profile and in data file records we use the most correct name for a data file. The correct name may be derived by using the AACRII rules. Since we also wish our individual indices to assist the user in his search we also include in our local archive index those aliases or acronyms when they are commonly used, if the index is to prove useful.

In order not to have a great many "see....." included in the index where aliases or acronyms or common usage names are listed, the correct identifying number of a particular data file is used as the pointer.

KEYWORD INDEX

This index is certainly one of the most difficult to construct. A thesaurus would be helpful; however, the keyword index discussed here was developed from individual data files. As mentioned earlier, one of the mandatory sections of the Data Base Profile is a list of key variables. At the time of archiving a new data file, the abstract is written and the key variables extracted. These variables or subject categories are added to the end of the keyword index. A copy of the keyword index is kept online. New keywords are added at the end of the old index and a short SAS program sorts the keyword index by words or by identifying file numbers whenever necessary.

GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS AND MAJOR SUBJECT VARIABLES IN THE KEYWORD INDEX

Using Census Bureau designations, the lowest geographic level of the data is assigned as a second element of the keyword index. By using the lowest geographic level it is possible when searching for data to weed out those data files not useful to the researcher.

A third element for the keyword index is a prescribed list of major subject variables. For each data file the keyword index will include at least

one, but not more than three major subject categories. It is then possible to produce tables listing data files by geographic areas and major subject categories. Librarians may want to use the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) List.

The Data Base Profiles may be produced as printed copies to be given to researchers interested in using a particular data file and can be used as documentation for bibliographic citations in research papers for the creating of a catalog of holdings.

The Data Base Profiles stored in a partitioned data set at Rand are soon to be converted to a total on-line system using the IBM INFO/SYS CSD data retrieval system.

The OZ INFO/SYS has the capability of handling multiple data bases and

has been utilized at Rand recently to create an information system for a library of software models as used in one department (8).

With the data stored in OZ it will be possible to search the system for a particular data base by title, by keyword, or keyword combinations. Requesting data bases by keywords produces a "hit list" of all data bases that contain the requested keywords. The hit list can then be accessed in either of two forms: one is an abbreviated form that lists only a few specifics about the data bases on the list (including the data base number and title); the other is a full description of the data base. It is possible to get print copies of an OZ screen, of the individual data base descriptions and of the hit list of keywords.

References

- (1) Michael Phillipson, "The Classification, Storage and Retrieval of Survey Data, Reader in Machine-Readable Social Data," H. White, ed., Information Handling Services, Englewood, Colorado.
- (2) See Sue Dodd, "Cataloging Machine-Readable Data Files: An Interpretive Manual," American Library Association, December, 1982.
- (3) John D. Byrum, Jr. and Judith Rowe, "An Integrated, User-Oriented System for the Documentation and Control of Machine-Readable Data Files," Library Resources & Technical Services 16(3), Summer, 1972.
- (4) Carolyn Geda, "Marc Formal Applied to Machine-Readable Data Files: A Pilot Project of ICPSR," Paper prepared for delivery at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists, September 1-4, 1981, Berkeley, California.
- (5) Barbara Aldrich, "Proposed Standards for Bibliographic Entry and Abstracts for Federal Machine-Readable Data Files," Redraft 2, October, 1978.
- (6) Don Trees, "The Rand Computation Center: Rand's Data Facility: A Guide to Resources and Services," BCC-1555/18, Santa Monica, April, 1981.
- (7) Anglo American Cataloging Rules II, Chapter 9, Machine-Readable Data Files, P201-216.
- (8) As described by William Fowler, The Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, California, 1983.

NEWS & EVENTS

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED-SSRC

Dr. Howard Newby has been appointed Director of the SSRC Data Archive. He will take up the post in October of this year, and will hold a Professorship in the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex.

Dr. Newby's main interests have been in the fields of rural sociology, social stratification and community studies. He has published extensively in each of these fields, including *The Deferential Worker* (Penguin, 1979), *Property, Paternalism and Power* (Hutchinson, 1978), and *Green and Pleasant Land?* (Penguin, 1980). He is also co-editor of *Doing Sociological Research* (Allen and Unwin, 1977).

In the past, Dr. Newby has undertaken research for the Countryside Commission and is currently working on a study of countryside access for the Countryside Commission and the Sports Council. He is also co-principal investigator of a large scale SSRC-financed study of "Economic Stratification and the Social Structure."

Dr. Newby has held visiting appointments at the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney. He was formerly Professor of Sociology and Rural Sociology at the University of Madison-Wisconsin in the USA.

*Reprinted from: SSRC DATA ARCHIVE
BULLETIN, No. 26, Marcia Taylor, ed.*

PRESS RELEASE

STEIN ROKKAN PRIZE AWARDED

The 1983 Stein Rokkan Prize in Comparative Social Science Research, instituted by the International Social Science Council and the Con-junto Universitario Candido Mendes, has been awarded by the Executive Committee to Professor Jens Alber of the Research Institute of Sociology, University of Cologne, for his book *Von Armenhaus zum Wohlfahrtsstaat: Analysen zur Entwicklung der Sozialversicherung in Westeuropa* (From Poorhouse to Welfare State: Analyses of the Development of Social Insurance in Western Europe) and his article: *Einige Grundlagen und Begleiterscheinungen der Entwicklung der Sozialausgaben in Westeuropa, 1949-1977* (Some Causes and Consequences of Social Security Expenditure Development in Western Europe, 1949-1977).

The jury, chaired by Professor Rudolf Wildenmann, upon whose recommendation the Prize was awarded, considered that "Alber's book is an excellent historically based study of the development of social security in Western Europe. Historical developments are skillfully linked with social science theories and explanations, which are then tested against empirical data and analysis--in terms of the relative importance of institutions, and of the value of socio-economic versus political influences."

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MAY 14-18

The 1984 Conference is to be held at the Park Lane Hotel in downtown Ottawa from Monday, May 14 to Friday, May 18. The theme of the conference will be "Coming of Age in the Brave New World." Sub themes will address a variety of topics of interest to social scientists, data archivists, librarians, research administrators, computer specialists, and government records administrators. Papers will be presented in three general areas:

1. Coping with Big Brother (Privacy and Confidentiality)
2. Pursuing Technological Nirvana (The Advance of Technology)
3. The Information Empire (Roles and Responsibilities)

Proposals for papers, along with abstracts, should be forwarded to the Programme Chairperson.

A number of half-day and full day workshops covering such issues as "Planning a Data Library," "Complex Data Structures," and "Micro-Computer Applications" will be offered on Tuesday, May 15. Time has also been set aside for Association business including committee meetings and the Annual General meeting.

The members of the Local Arrangements Committee are ensuring that there will be sufficient time to socialize and to enjoy the pleasures that Ottawa has to offer. As an example, the Conference has been timed to provide participants with the opportunity to enjoy the annual Festival of Spring. In addition, Committee members are planning a number of receptions, tours and other social activities designed to make your stay in Ottawa an enjoyable one. For information about local arrangements please contact John McDonald, c/o Machine Readable Archives Division, Public Archives, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3, (613) 593-7772.

For further information on our planning activities please write or call:

Harold Naugler (Programme Chairperson)
c/o Machine Readable Archives Division
Public Archives of Canada
395 Wellington Street
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In August, 1973 the U.S. Bureau of the Census conducted a survey, *Occupational Changes in a Generation* (OCG), on behalf of David L. Featherman and Robert M. Hauser, to explore the effects that peoples' backgrounds, schooling, military service, and early work experiences have on their careers. The target sample was men aged 20 to 65, but some of the same data were ascertained for wives of married, spouse-present men. The study was a replicate and extension of the 1962 *Occupational Changes in a Generation Survey* conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census on behalf of Peter M. Blau and Otis Dudley Duncan to examine the extent and sources of social mobility in the U.S. The 1973 study was conducted as a supplement to the 1973 March *Current Population Survey* (CPS).

The DPLS archive has already released two data files in the OCG series: *Occupational Changes in a Generation, 1962* and *Occupational Changes in a Generation: Replicate Master File, 1962 and 1973*. The OCG 1973 study contains all the source materials for the 1973 segment of the *Replicate Master File*, supplemented by variables and codes that were not replicates of those in the 1962 OCG file. Data files scheduled for release after January 1, 1984 include:

Occupational Changes in a Generation, 1973
(March 1973 CPS and 1973 OCG)

Occupational Changes in a Generation, 1973:
Replicate Sample Weights
(March 1973 CPS, 1973 OCG, and replicate sample weights)

Much of the documentation accompanying the *Occupational Changes in a Generation: Replicate Master File* has been reproduced and is augmented by technical notes on data quality. The data file and documentation for OCG, 1973 can be obtained for about \$123 documentation alone, \$58. The OCG, 1973: *Internal Sample Weights* can be obtained for \$254. The cost includes xeroxing, staff time, magnetic tape(s), computer time, postage, and a maintenance/preservation fee. The data file can be written to user specifications, in BCD, EBCDIC, or ASCII. For further information, contact:

The Data and Program Library Service
3133 Social Science Building
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
(Tel. No.: 608/262-7962)

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UPDATE _____

In the last issue of the Quarterly (Fall, 1983), we reprinted an article from DATA USER NEWS on the population of Mexico. The report titled DETAILED STATISTICS ON THE URBAN AND RURAL POPULATIONS OF MEXICO, 1950-2010 has been reduced in price and may now be obtained from the Center for International Research, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 20233 for \$10.00.

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